

# **Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Tuesday, July 31, 2011, 6:00 PM**

**School Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**286 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

## **Minutes**

**I Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.**

**a. Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator, Business Administrator, Ms. Margaret Baker, Assistant Business Administrator and Mr. Stephen M. Robinson, Legal Counsel for the School Committee.**

**Members, Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Spooner were not in attendance.**

**II Public Participation**

**Mr. Joseph Knight: This School Committee presented a \$1.5M deficit for the prior year 2011-2012 to the City of Pawtucket. The deficit appears to closely match the Federal Jobs monies that they received last year. That was education money that public schools were advised not to spend because there was probability that the State was not going to pay that money. This budget shortfall is one more example of how this school department is not operating in a transparent way. When is it going to stop?**

**Mr. Tenreiro: If there is no objection we will skip down to item VII c. certified appointments and then we will go into executive session for the principal interviews only and come back to the open session, finish the rest of the meeting and go back to executive session for those remaining items.**

**Item 3. Legal advice—FY12 Budget under executive session will be passed in executive session. It will not be discussed in executive session. We will have that discussion out here in public with Mr. Robinson.**

## **VII New Business-Action Items**

### **c. Certified Appointments**

**Ms. Mercer: The following are the recommendations for the 2012-2013 school year:**

**Elizabeth Andersen, School Nurse Teacher-Winters; Step 9 pending verification**

**Susan Olney Farrell, School Nurse Teacher-Tolman**

**Judith O'Neill, PE Teacher-Curtis; Step 2 pending verification**

**Tara O'Brien Manion, Librarian-Greene; Step 7 pending verification**

**Jill Jackson, Librarian-Baldwin; Step 8 pending verification**

**Jacqueline Weber, Library Media Specialist-Slater Junior High; Step 10 + Masters pending verification**

**Christopher Martinelli, Science ESL-Slater Junior High; Step 1 Emergency\***

**Jason Cotoia, Social Studies ESL-Slater Junior High; Step 6 pending verification\***

**Shawna Iannotti, School Psychologist-Baldwin/Curvin; Step 5 CAGS**

**pending verification**

**Alyssa Syniec, Speech Language Pathologist-Potter/Preschool-District Wide; Step 1 Master's (Grant funded position)**

**Dominique Damascus, Speech Language Pathologist-Cunningham/Slater/Tolman; Step 1 Master's (Grant funded position)**

**Tina Dennis, Special Educator-Preschool Self-Contained Autism-Varieur; Step 10 Master's pending verification**

**Kathleen Bibeault, Kindergarten ESL-Baldwin; Step 2 pending verification**

**Krystal Vento, Grade 5 ESL-Baldwin; Step 6 pending verification**

**MaryAnne McGonnigle, Grade 1 ESL-Winters; Step 4 pending verification**

**David DiMaio, Music Teacher-Goff; Step 1**

**Transformation Schools:**

**Tolman High School**

**Michael Cordeiro, Systems Manager**

**Jason Rushton, Special Education-Inclusion/Resource; Step 1**

**Despina Diko, Special Education-Inclusion/Resource; Step 1**

**Jennifer Sawyer, Guidance Counselor, Presently employed by PSD**

**Carla A. Barbosa, Guidance Counselor, Presently employed by PSD**

**Justin Cardinale, Science Teacher-Grade 9 Team, Presently employed by PSD**

**Peter Solomon, STEM Teacher; Step 10 pending verification**

**Susan Farrell, School Nurse Teacher; Step 4 pending verification**

**Shea High School**

**Matthew Bergeron, Systems Manager**

**Olivia Smith, Special Education-Inclusion/Resource; Step 2 pending verification**

**Kathryn Moitoza Rushton, Special Education-Inclusion/Resource; Step 1**

**Daniel Casey, Guidance Counselor; Step 8 pending verification**

**Susan Hall, ESL Science Teacher-Grade 9 Team; Step 1\***

**Talia Rainone, ESL Science Teacher-Grade 9 Team; Step 1\***

**Sarah Garrison, ESL English Language Arts; Step 1\***

**Samantha Chella, ESL English Language Arts; Step 1\***

**Thomas Lynch, ESL Social Studies; Step 1\***

**Matthew Rodrigues, ESL Social Studies; Step 1\***

**Verda Jones, Stem Teacher; Step 1**

**\*Indicates it is the expectation that these teachers will complete the ESL endorsement before their tenure year.**

**Kimberly McCaughey, Intervention Facilitator-Baldwin Elementary**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the certified appointments as recommended. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Ms. Nordquist: The systems manager position. This is not another attendance position?**

**Mrs. Cylke: They are two different positions and they are both teachers currently in the system.**

**Ms. Nordquist: They are funded under the transformation grant?**

**Mrs. Cylke: Yes.**

**Roll call:**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;  
Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mrs. Cylke: I want to thank the many teachers and representatives of the Pawtucket Administrator's Association who have spent countless hours conducting many, many interviews. I want to extend my thanks. It's the most important job to select educators for our many students. Again, I just want to extend my personal thanks for your time and dedication. I know you will greet these good people with lots of support and help them have a great first year here in Pawtucket.**

### **III Executive Session**

**The Chairman commented that the Committee would possibly recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under the General Laws of the State of R. I., Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (1) job performance, character, or physical/mental health (2) legal advice/litigation/collective bargaining; and (9) any hearings on or discussions of a grievance, filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:**

#### **1. Principal Interviews**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to recess to executive session. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Roll call:**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-in light of the modification, yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:23 PM to 6:40 PM for the first time this evening.**

#### **IV Reconvene open session**

**The Chairman called the open session back to order at 6:42 PM.**

##### **a. Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

#### **V Report out vote(s) of executive session of 7/31/12 if applicable**

**The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out of executive session.**

**The Clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to recess to open session.**

#### **VII New Business-Action Items**

##### **c. Certified Appointments**

**Mrs. Cylke: This evening the staff recommends that you approve the appointments of Mr. Michael Gilmore as the Principal at the Winters Elementary School and Dr. Linda Gifford as the Director at the ALP-Alternative Learning Program.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Principal appointments: Mr. Michael Gilmore, Principal at Winters Elementary School and Dr. Linda Gifford, Director at the ALP-Alternative Learning Program. Mr. Noonan seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

#### **VI Presentation/Informational Item**

##### **a. FY12 Budget Deficit**

**Mr. Tenreiro:** On this item we will provide an overview and provide some options and I'd like to gage the direction the Committee would like to go with this and get a consensus and have another meeting with the Mayor and Rosemary Gallogly and find the plan that makes the most sense and at our next regular meeting we will vote to deal with the budget issue.

**Mrs. Cylke:** We were working a year ago collaboratively with an FY12 budget deficit of \$7.3M, including \$1.5M in unidentified cuts. Publicly we all agreed that relying on unidentified cuts or lag and medical reserves was not the best business practice but when you're this tight, it is one option. Tony Pires did mention they do the same thing on the city side on medical reserves.

With the collaboration of our unions we had concessions. We had furlough days and cuts that amounted to \$4.4M.

The State informed us that Literacy Set Aside monies were unrestricted so we were able to use that money which amounted to \$1.1M.

We counted on \$800,000 in medical reserves.

We identified in subsequent meetings additional cuts of \$550,000 and other central office cuts of \$450,000 bringing us to a balanced budget. In January, it was publicly announced that the medial claims that we were \$1M below what we expected. In April, we reported that again we were off and not in the right direction. The final audit is not until October.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** We need to keep a medical reserve for medical claims for a certain amount. What we did is we said we would lower that

amount and yet the claims came in a lot higher.

Unspecified cuts are where you are hoping your numbers come in at this level and they get hit harder.

Both can be hit at the same time if you have a number of long term illnesses. It impacts your medical reserves negatively and yet increases the amount you are putting out for sub pay so your unspecified cut number just won't come in.

There was a time we bet on \$2.5M in unspecified cuts. What is it for next year's budget?

Mr. Conlon: About \$750,000.

Mr. Tenreiro: There is a reduced reliance moving forward that the Committee identified that they want to follow through with.

Mrs. Cylke: For FY13 we are being very conservative as we made the following decisions.

One is even if the lag or unidentified cuts and medical reserves is \$1.5M it is going to be half of that. We also did not count on the Governor's accelerated funding formula.

Mr. Noonan: Not a single person was denied medical care, right?

Mrs. Cylke: No.

Every month I sign a report that goes to the City telling them where we stand.

Mr. Conlon: The first half of the year the average medical claims were \$300,000. The following six months we went up to \$355,000. The additional \$55,000 per week at 26 weeks killed us. Fortunately there was enough in there to pay all the bills without exceeding the amount we put in there.

**Mrs. Cylke: In FY11 the State decided to balance its budget by keeping automobile excise tax monies in the amount of \$9M. In talking with Mr. Wunschel, the City took a \$6M hit and the school department took a \$3M hit. That year they could legitimately reduce our revenues by 5%. There is a statute in place that allows municipalities to fund their schools at 95%. What was that 5%? \$1.3M. Mr. Wunschel said we are going to cut your funding by another \$1.6M because your enrollment is down. Enrollment was down since ten years ago, but in the last couple of years, it is up. We received \$2.8M in education jobs monies. We were in a position where we just had our budget cut by \$2.9M by the City. We were straight forward and spent the money. We let Rosemary Gallogy know we were doing it. The Rhode Island Department of Education knew we were doing it. We did this to balance the budget.**

**That money has since been returned in FY13 in Governor Chafee's budget. That was the year that the City was in a very bad situation and they had to take a \$9M hit and they were expecting us to absorb \$3M of it. \$1.3M was legitimate, but the \$1.6M we all questioned and there was also a Caruolo action and it didn't get us to a positive place. That's a structural deficit. So \$1.5M is almost equal to that cut that we took in FY11. We haven't climbed out of it. It is a structural deficit; just as the City is climbing out of its structural deficit of \$6M.**

**As we move ahead we are looking at a \$1.5M, possibly \$1.8M deficit, but we won't know until the fall when we have the actual numbers.**

**I'm going to meet with the City and one way to deal with this is called the Budget Deficit Reduction Plan and by statute we are given five**

years to pay off the deficit. This is a structural deficit and the City would pay it off in five years at \$350,000 per year.

Another possibility would be we lose our FY13 surplus of approximately \$1M. So we could use surplus and we could make cuts to the FY13 budget.

Another option would be to work out something with the City to share responsibility and approach the auditor general and each pay \$180,000 over the next five years in a Budget Deficit Reduction Plan.

The goal is to get out of Budget Deficit Reduction Plans. The City has a \$55,000 surplus. They can raise taxes, you cannot. They have an anticipated surplus of \$1M for FY13 in reserve.

This is a structural deficit, it's not about over spending. We are being very conservative about FY13 and the medical reserves. We have \$750,000 in unidentified cuts and the \$971,000 has not been spent.

The accelerated funding formula, the equity monies are there because the state has said we need to fund in a more equitable manner. This money is clearly intended for the students of the City of Pawtucket.

This money is to help every student meet the requirements in the BEP. Money needs to be spent on reading materials for grades kindergarten through two. That's our SuperKids Program. We received a \$680,000 gift from that program. Only 23% of our kids show proficiency in Science. Science needs to be addressed. That amounts to approximately \$150,000 including materials, supplies and the coordinator. We need a curriculum coordinator and contents specialists at the elementary level. State testing will no longer be the bubble sheets with the number two pencils. They will be done on

computers. We don't have the computers. We have four schools on warning status.

The next step would be to review possibilities with City leaders and the finance team and to meet with the Auditor General, Dennis Hoyle and to see what solutions would be acceptable.

Mr. Robinson: There are many places in the law where it requires the Superintendent and School Committee not to have a deficit. When a deficit is determined to have occurred, it requires the School Committee to come up with a plan. That plan involves both the City Council, the Mayor and the Auditor General. Normally that is done within the fiscal year that you are in. In this case we found it pretty late in the school year that we have a deficit. The Superintendent has given you two to three options. The requirement is to come up with a plan. It gives you a chance to be pro-active on it. My recommendation to you is to develop and come up with a plan. You have some options in front of you this evening.

Mr. Tenreiro: Who owns the deficit?

Mr. Robinson: A deficit is owned by the City. Bonding agencies and rating agencies on their side of the books. But it does not eliminate our responsibility to come up with a plan.

Ms. Nordquist: The plan that you are talking about, is it what we have done in the past where you are requesting waivers?

Mr. Robinson: It would have to be something where you make the deficit go away. That plan typically requires the cooperation of the City and the plan needs to get addressed.

Mr. Tenreiro: With the new law that was passed regarding

**Maintenance of Effort, the City with the current 2010 Budget Deficit Reduction Plan that is on the table; did they need to make that Maintenance of Effort because that plan was guaranteed in 2010? Moving forward do they not have to make those payments?**

**Mr. Robinson: I'm not sure. Certainly on paper moving forward they do not have to. That statute really has two parts to it. Give as much as you gave last year and you've done your maintenance of effort. That was reduced to 95%. The other part of the statute says you must give enough money to run all of the required programs. Maintenance of Effort requires enough money to run all of your required programs mean you need even more money. You could file a Maintenance of Effort action at the Commissioner of Education's level for even more money.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: We've been very efficient in one sense and we have the opportunity to use the cash that is intended for students in a district that is underfunded. But we have people who are reeling from tax bills and adequacy lawsuit that says our City is over taxed by hundreds of percentage points.**

**Mr. Noonan: When you take out a credit card and you rack up a debt, you owe that debt. The credit card company doesn't go after you for "X" amount of time for that debt. The statute of limitations doesn't extinguish the debts, it extinguishes the remedies. My concern is then with respect to this \$1.6M. I want to make it clear to the City that we reserve our right and they acknowledge that right that we can go after that if we want to. Otherwise, we are going to see a statute of limitations argument here. At some point and time they are going to**

say it's too late to sue for that money. All I want to do is preserve the procedural remedy. I believe that part of our fiduciary duty is to work out an arrangement or sign a bi-lateral agreement that we are able to pursue it and that they will waive the statute of limitations. We must preserve that right to claim it. I want an agreement that if we ever choose to get the \$1.6M, they can't hold us to the statute of limitations.

Mr. Tenreiro: We want to continue to work on this collaboratively. This number strangely is equal to that structural deficit created by that \$1.6M.

Mr. Robinson: Typically you can get that kind of agreement when you say to them let's put this off, by agreement or else we're going to sue you.

Ms. Bonollo: Could it be if we were to work on our Budget Deficit Reduction Plan, we're looking at \$400,000 or \$500,000 coming out of the current year budget is there a way to reduce that because we have so many needs in our schools to bring our students up to standard? To reduce that and escalate that even though it's a five year plan?

Mrs. Cylke: In other words, make the minimal payment in year one so that we can get the kids the resources they need.

Two things have to happen. One is in a meeting with the Auditor General and Mr. Pires is to explore those possibilities. One concern is as a citizen of Pawtucket, is when you are looking at the big picture and we want to get out of this having this Budget Deficit Reduction Plan by having a Budget Deficit Reduction Plan it affects the City's

bond rating. The bond rating is important because we sell bonds and we will be going to the public in the fall and asking the public for bonds to help maintain our schools and take care of some health and safety issues. When the bonds are sold we want them at the best rate possible.

We need to go thoroughly through our FY13 budget and recommend cuts if it comes to that.

Mr. Tenreiro: There are some options in your packets. One is to enter into a Budget Deficit Reduction Plan. Two is for the School Department to absorb the entire FY12 deficit in FY13 or the School Department would still be responsible for the entire deficit, however, spread the payments out to the City over a five year period with FY13's payment coming from the Accelerated Funding Formula. Three, we share that.

Mr. Araujo: I think the shared responsibility is the route we should explore. I can't see taking the accelerated funds away from the children of our district. Knowing that we are all in the same district and the same City we could be working collaboratively.

Ms. Nordquist: I don't think we should go with option two. We were counting on that surplus we had last year in actuality. I would go with either one or three in working in collaboration with the City. I don't think we'll be ahead. We might be putting ourselves in a greater hole.

I don't want that to be the responsibility of this School Committee.

Ms. Bonollo: If we don't have the funds to bring our kids up to standards, everything we have been working towards and fighting for we are going to lose. It's not worth fighting for.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Let me throw out my personal thoughts, but I will work with the general consensus of the committee. We did a great job of cutting close to \$8M over the past two years to achieve balanced budgets. Unfortunately at the last minute we had to rely on things that we didn't want to rely on, but we had to. This year we certainly returned and restored a good amount of that. I want to get the City away from deficit reduction plans. If we can somehow absorb through use of the surplus and next year through some cuts and slight increase on the reliance on the same thing that got us here in the first place. But at the same time any surplus that the City has does come to the school department because any surplus they have \$250,000 and under was created by the School Department agreeing as part of our current deficit reduction plan to give them that \$278,000 back. If they are reporting a \$255,000 surplus, that was created by this plan. The other aspect of this is they could legitimately say with the new law that was passed, that we are not going to give you Maintenance of Effort on the remaining years on the 2010 plan. The remaining three years on the 2010 plan equals \$1.5M. I wonder if the remedy we seek restores the \$1.6M you are talking about that guarantees and stays as Maintenance of Effort and in that way there is no impact to the taxpayer. We don't get everything we want. Understand we've restored a lot. We have a balanced budget this year. We have a balanced budget next year. We have a lesser reliance that got us into this in the first place.

**Mr. Noonan:** When I spoke earlier, I was merely speaking of the procedural remedies to resolve this. The \$970,000 of accelerated

**funds is money we need to fulfill needs that are untouchable. This is essential to our educational leaders. We need to educate our children first and worry about a plan. We have a \$970,000 surplus, I don't want to give it to the City, I want to educate our kids. We've been depriving our kids, training our teachers, supplies, computers, books and everything.**

**Ms. Bonollo: If you wanted to consider from going from here to there I want to see some specific data, what it is you are looking at, what it's going to impact and how much in specific areas. My kids went through junior high without books.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: What's the total budget this year versus the total number next year? It was about a \$6M difference in expenditures. We did make cuts, but we did try to restore some of them in next year's budget due to accelerated funding formula and everything else. I would put reading supplies and science supplies going to teachers first on that list before anything else.**

**Mr. Conlon: Unlike the City, the Governor cut the Federal Jobs Monies and then restored them in FY12, otherwise it would have been another structural deficit. In the fall we do adjust to actual.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I don't think we will be able to leave this meeting with choosing an option. I think we should have the meeting with the people listed and lay out those options try and come to some terms and bring back multiple options.**

## **VII New Business – Action Items**

### **a. Award of Custodial Bid**

**Mr. Conlon: Every year at this time we go out to bid for custodial**

**supplies. We went out to bid, we had eleven companies respond and ten of those vendors had low prices.**

**Supreme Industrial Products Inc., Providence RI, \$13,763.75**

**W.B. Mason, Cranston RI, \$162.54**

**Casey Engineered Maintenance, Inc., Foxboro MA, \$49,594.50**

**Banner Systems, Brockton MA, \$5,755.79**

**Shur-Az, Central Falls RI, \$41,475.59**

**Eastern Bag, Tewksbury MA, \$459.70**

**Grainger, Alpharetta GA, \$9,412.00**

**Central Poly Corp, Linden NJ, \$552.00**

**Arrow Paper Corp, Wilmington MA, \$3,816.12**

**Universal Gold, East Providence RI , \$22,590.00**

**For a total of \$147,581.99 which is under budget by about \$15,000.00 from last year, however, there may be some things that come up during the year that we will have to purchase. I ask that you approve the custodial award as presented this evening.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the award of the custodial as presented by the Business Administrator, Mr. Conlon. Mr. Araujo seconded.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Have we gone green at all for the benefit of our staff and students?**

**Mr. Conlon: Actually, some of those are, but Dennis Rebelo would know better.**

**Ms. Bonollo: A lot of the items we are purchasing in bulk. I also know that the City purchases in bulk. Is there a way we can work together and increase the volume and get a reduced price?**

**Mr. Conlon:** The Mayor sent an email to that effect, but we had to do this now because there were supplies we needed in the summer. Lance Hill sent a request for our expiring contracts and we are going to put together a joint purchasing agreement to do just that.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** How many of these are purchased collaboratively with other districts?

**Mr. Conlon:** W. B. Mason, just classroom supplies.

**Mrs. Cylke:** I've communicated with the Mayor that it makes sense to share all these possible ways if there can be a savings. But I don't want it to be random. We need to have a process. We need to identify all of that and create a timeline and a process map.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

**b. Approval of One Year Telephone Contract Extension- Cox Communications**

This item was passed for discussion and will be brought back on a future agenda.

**d. Approval of Job Descriptions**

**Mrs. Cylke:** One is the Evaluation Implementation Specialist. This is a position through transformation that RIDE is funding. They recognized the new teacher evaluation is critically important and time consuming. Ms. Mercer has done a number of them and has spent about an average of eighteen hours on each one. They recognized that as these high schools are in transformation they need a specialist to help with this implementation. The implementation specialist is committed to following the I-team model. That's no cost to the district. RIDE is funding that.

The other job description was written by Mr. St. Jean. He has an employee leaving and that employee was hired many years ago. The history of the work has changed and requires a different skill set. This School Data Specialist will really be that person who extracts a lot of that data that RIDE continually requests. That position is cost neutral. The person coming in will make no more than the person going out.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the two jobs descriptions of Evaluation Implementation Specialist and the Data Entry Specialist. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: On this Evaluation Implementation Specialist, I know that the Administrators due the evaluations, but with this position, the Administrative Certification, is that something that RIDE said had to be required?

Mrs. Cylke: I don't recall that that was a requirement. But this person is going to have to be face to face and maybe even confronting other administrator's evaluations and how they are given data and feedback with conversations with teachers. In talking with Ms. Di Censo we thought it best to have an administrator in this position.

Mr. Noonan: Are the Administrators' Association aware of this position?

Mrs. Cylke: Yes, I made them aware of this new position and it's only for twenty four months.

Mr. Tenreiro: How much overlap is there with the I-3 Coordinator Innovation grant coordinator of the evaluation system and is that person able to fulfill this type of role?

**Mrs. Cylke:** Lynn Cristino is our I-3 Coordinator and half of her job is ensuring the implementation of the I-3 model. In talking with the Deputy there is no way that Lynn could do this. We have about 90 teachers or 120 at both high schools.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Does the district have an ISP Intermediate Service Provider provided by RIDE?

**Mrs. Cylke:** No.

**Mr. Araujo:** Since RIDE provides the funding for this implementation evaluation specialist, the job expires in June of 2014?

**Mrs. Cylke:** Yes.

**Mr. Araujo:** We were talking about shared service with the City when I first came on board. I know I.S. was one of them. That could be one of them we could explore in light of what we are facing with our budget.

**Mrs. Cylke:** We have and I would try to be patient. I think we are all aware that the City has conducted an efficiency study. My staff has fully cooperated. I've met with Mr. Simmons of RIPEC. Dennis Rebelo since February has been on his own. We haven't filled positions because of this study. They are inundated with data extracts and we are paying people because it has to get done. I don't know that the City needs a data entry specialist. I'd be happy to hold off on this and ask. What have come up are shared services for personnel and shared information systems and that's opened.

**Mr. Araujo:** Maybe it would be in our best interests to table this job description since Mr. St. Jean made his announcement that he is leaving and perhaps we could hold off on this until we have someone

else in his place. Maybe when the new person comes on board, it will be determined that we don't need this position.

Mrs. Cylke: I would defer this to the Deputy because she has worked so closely to the Information Systems Department. My concern is that there is constant data extract with RIDE and my suggestion would be to go ahead and approve the job description and we will hold off on posting it.

Ms. Mercer: This is significant in uploading reports to RIDE and they may take a long time. We have to pull off student information off the system and it can take a real long time. This is really important. Everything gets uploaded now, even textbook information.

Ms. Baker: There is no one up there right now. With him leaving right now and this other person retired it's really important that we get someone in there.

Ms. Bonollo: One thing we were discussing with merging the I. T. department with the City was that the integration would affect our E-rate and the funding for it and it couldn't be co-mingled.

Mrs. Cylke: I think that will come out of the RIPEC study. My guess is when you are talking about sharing services surrounding school districts should share services and surrounding cities should share services. The I. T. services of the City and the I. T. services of the schools are very different.

Ms. Bonollo: He said we would lose these funds.

Mr. Tenreiro: The Data Specialist is a cost neutral position because we are not going to refill the clerk.

Mrs. Cylke: No.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** The Evaluation Implementation Specialist. I know that position was not in the Transformation agreement. RIDE says a lot of times that they are going to pay things through grants. Even our Performance Officers for the Elementary and Secondary Schools came over to the local budget awfully fast. \$350,000 that we were told originally could have been applied to that grant funded and is now it is local. In that sense, as a committee, can we do this?

**Ms. Mercer:** When I saw the budgets coming through with Race to the Top, this was one item that was put in by the State. That was not us. This was not something we put in there. It came to us.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Is it defining you, as the Assistant Superintendent or is it defining a totally different person of a different calibration and separate job description?

**Ms. Mercer:** A separate job description. This is money that RIDE put in there.

**Mrs. Cylke:** Before I arrived Kim had no money for transformation because Pawtucket was not a transformation district. Kim had this budget and it was not there. We go through transformation, we have the transformation accord. This is never brought up because we are not aware of it. In subsequent meetings Patti and I have with RIDE, they said, by the way, any district in transformation we have this other line item we have these evaluations to be implemented with fidelity. They actually funded it assuming it would be administrators. It's clear for two years and the person who takes this position has to know it's only for two years and that's how we protect ourselves from incurring a cost.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** I just want some guarantee in writing for that. Could the motion be withdrawn so we could split the two?

**Ms. Nordquist** withdrew her original motion to approve the new job descriptions, Evaluation Implementation Specialist and School Data Specialist.

**Ms. Nordquist** moved to approve the School Data Specialist. **Ms. Bonollo** seconded.

**Ms. Nordquist:** This is exactly why I voted against the School Performance Officers. I don't know why we need to hire more administrators at a time when I know we shouldn't have been.

**Roll call:**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Nordquist** moved to approve the new job description for the Evaluation Implementation Specialist. **Ms. Bonollo** seconded.

**Ms. Nordquist:** I voted no for the other positions because I found it hard to believe that RIDE was going to fund the positions of those administrators here in Pawtucket. But if they're going to give us this money for this Evaluation Implementation Specialist then I think we should have some type of assurance because I would never go for it coming out of the local fund.

**Ms. Bonollo:** Can we amend the motion to say contingent on funding by RIDE?

**Mr. Tenreiro:** For me I want to see it on a piece of paper in front of me that RIDE is paying for this.

**Mrs. Cylke: I actually have the email from RIDE.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Every time I ask questions, “it’s this is part of the Transformation Accord.”**

**Mr. Tenreiro: All the others have been part of the Transformation Accord. This one is not, but they are saying it is part of the budget that came back. It’s just the committee asking for more information before they make that decision.**

**Mrs. Cylke: Would it be possible if you approve the job description with the contingency that I have RIDE directly on official documentation forward to me then I forward to you their actual funding line item. Kim actually has it in her office. It’s been officially allocated.**

**Ms. Mercer: It was above and beyond what was allocated. They did not take anything out.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: The motion is to approve the Evaluation Implementation Specialist with the amendment that there is written documentation that guarantees Rhode Island Department of Education funding for two years.**

**Roll call:**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-no**

**Motion passes four in favor; one opposed.**

## **VIII Superintendent’s Report**

**Mrs. Cylke: We want to congratulate Mr. Michael St. Jean.**

**The Board of Regents has approved the Pawtucket School Department’s Stage II Health and Safety Request for a total amount of**

**\$8M, which means that any work done would be reimbursed at the full 75-82%. We are hoping in the fall our bond passes for \$5M for those school maintenance projects.**

**Fourteen of our teachers attended the models school conference in Florida. I received numerous emails from those teachers in attendance. That was federally funded. It was for that purpose, professional development. All the teachers that we sent were from Shea and Tolman High School.**

**This week all of our principals and assistant principals will be attending a federally funded conference in Hartford. It's a major piece in improving academic achievement in Pawtucket. It's really important that our principals are trained and our assistants.**

#### **IX Special Reports of School Committee Members**

**Mr. Araujo: Congratulations to all the folks who got appointed this evening. Thank you for coming and have a good night.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Congratulations to all our appointments and enjoy what's left of your summer. School is soon approaching.**

**Mr. Noonan: Congratulations.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Congratulations and have a nice night.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Mr. Miller, I wasn't here when you were appointed so I just wanted to formally congratulate you tonight.**

#### **III Executive Session**

**The Chairman commented that the Committee would possibly recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under the General Laws of the State of R. I., Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (1) job performance, character, or physical/mental health (2) legal**

**advice/litigation/collective bargaining; and (9) any hearings on or discussions of a grievance, filed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:**

**2. Legal Advice—Leases**

**4. ESY Grievance**

**5. Adequacy Lawsuit**

**6. Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to recess to executive session for the second time this evening. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Roll call:**

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;  
Mr. Tenreiro-yes**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**The committee recessed to executive session at 8:04 PM to 8:36 PM.**

**IV Reconvene to open session**

**The Chairman reconvened the open session at 8:40 PM.**

**a. Roll call**

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here**

**V Report out vote(s) of executive session of 7/31/12 if applicable**

**The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out of the second executive session.**

**The Clerk reported that the committee voted unanimously to authorize Attorney Stephen Robinson to preserve the right to appeal regarding the Adequacy Lawsuit. The committee voted unanimously to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive**

**session.**

**X      Adjournment**

**Mr. Noonan moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carried all in favor.**

**The Chairman adjourned the special meeting of the Pawtucket School  
Committee on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 8:41 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved 9/12/12**